

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Sarah L. Jones, and I am a resident of Manchester, and currently serve as the Deputy Mayor of our community.

I am writing today to share my support for SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community, a community we celebrate in Manchester, has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve.

In addition, I support the expansion of access to HUSKY and quality healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults. As deputy mayor I have seen the myriad ways our immigrant community members have enriched our town. They are our residents, our friends, and our neighbors and access to healthcare is a fundamental right that should not be denied, for any reason, but in particular for immigration status.

It is vital that legislators support this so that young people and their families have access to high quality healthcare and put that worry to rest. In the midst of a global pandemic that has exacerbated the inequities in many of our institutions, we need to stand strong in the belief that health is a human right and access to care is vital to our state's ongoing recovery efforts. Let's not let these past two years leave us in the same place as we began, but rather take a step forward in righting the inequities and providing access! Healthy families are productive families, in school, at work, and in our communities.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support this legislation as well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah L. Jones
Deputy Mayor, Manchester, CT